THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Sir. The Committee headed by Shri M.K. Kaw has made several recommendations relating to the causes of inordinate delay in the disposal of cases. Some of the main recommendations are as follows:

(i) Punctuality in assembly of the Benches needs to be improved;

(ii) Composition of the Benches should be stable at least for one year at a time;

(iii) The tendency of the litigants to seek adjournments should be curbed;

(iv) Orders in all simple cases and stay matters should be pronounced in the open court;

(v) All cases listed on a day-to-day basis should be heard fully.

(b) All the above mentioned recommedations have been implemented with the result that the pendency has been brought down from 52151 appeals as on 31.12.1994 to 33450 as on 30.9.1998.

Financial Scam in Accounts of DGHC

1781. SHRI DAWA LAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that serious financial scams have been detected by CAG while conducting test checks into accounts of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council; and

(b) whether Government propose to conduct full-fledged audit by CAG into the accounts of DGHC?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The reports of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the accounts of the State are submitted to the respective Governors who cause these reports to be laid on the table of the State Legislature. Further action is taken in accordance with the recommendations of the respective Public Accounts Committee of the respective State Legislature. The audit reports on the accounts of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council is a matter concerning the Government of West Bengal.

IRS Officers on Deputation

1782. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IRS officers on deputation to various institutions in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi who have completed their tenure but are not being called back; and

(b) the number of such officers who are on deputation even after having completed the maximum tenure permissible under the rules and whether Government propose to call them back to join their original cadres and whether Government also propose to strictly follow the maximum period of stay by not allowing any relaxation as per rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) 19 (Nineteen).

The tenure of the officers deputed to various organisations is governed by the rules regulating the appointment to the posts concerned. Extension in the deputation tenure of such officers is considered and granted by the borrowing organisations, and the CBDT as the lending Cadre Controlling Authority in respect of the Indian Revenue Service only conveys its 'No Objection' for extension of tenure of such officers keeping in view the requirements of the Department. Unless the competent authority decides otherwise, under the existing instructions, the officers concerned will revert back to the cadre on the completion of their extended tenure. CBDT permits deputation

beyond the normal tenure only in exceptional circumstances.

Investment under section 80-DDA of the Income Tax Act

1783. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per Finance Act, 1998 limit for investment under Section 80-DDA of the Income Tax Act has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000. Whereas in actual practice there is not a single scheme prevalent as on date for investment under the said clause either by LIC or UTI; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to instruct UTI/LIC to restart any of the schemes for investment under Section 80-DDA; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) By the Finance Act, 1998 the nitherto existing sections 80 DD and 80 DDA were merged together to form a new section 80 DD, which comes into effect from assessment year 1999-2000 onwards. Under the new section 80 DD, the overall limit has been enhanced to Rs. 40,000/-. It is not correct to say that there are no schemes for availing the benefit.

The Jeevan Adhar plan of LIC available before the Finance Bill, 1998 continues to be available under the new provision. The Childrens Growth Fund 1986, which had a Special Plan for handicapped in terms of section 80 DDA of the Income-tax Act was suspended with effect from 1st November, 1997.

(b) As stated above, the LIC's Jeevan Adhar Plan is available for availing tax benefits. However, because of high income distribution in relation to current interest rates, the special plan for the handicapped under the Childrens Growth Fund, 1986 was suspended. The Unit Trust of India is again contemplating on relaunching the special plan for handicapped.

न्यायिक प्रणाली में सुधार

1784. **प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव:**
श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक:

क्या विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या तीस हजारी अदालत के किसी न्यायिक मजिस्ट्रेट द्वारा न्यायपालिका क्षेत्र में सुधार हेतु सुझाव देते हुए कोई पत्र (न्यायिक लोकपाल व्यवस्था लागू करने या न्यायिक आयोग के गठन का सुझाव) प्रधानमंत्री को दिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस पत्र में दिए गए सुझाव का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) उपरोक्त सुझाव पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है और सरकार का इस संबंध में क्या निर्णय लेने का प्रस्ताव है?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री एम॰ थम्बी दुरई): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Unfair Trade Practices by H.B. Portfolio and Leasing Company

1785. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several complaints have been received against H.B. Portfolio and Leasing Company for indulging in various unfair trade practices; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) An application under Section 12B of the MRTP Act 1969, filed on 17.1.96 by Ms. Anka Sharma against H.B. Portfolio Leasing Ltd. claiming compensation of Rs.